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Application No. 10/727,242

July 5, 2007

Preliminary Amendment Accompanying Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114

In the Claims:**Please amend the claims as indicated below:**

1. (Currently Amended) An injection molding method, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a mold having a mold cavity formed therein;
 - locating an electrical circuit within said mold cavity, wherein said electrical circuit comprises electrical components assembled to an electrical circuit board prior to any molding operations thereof;
 - configuring said mold to provide a mold form geometry that permits a plurality of components to be connected electrically to said electrical circuit and an associated latch mechanism after said injection molding of said plastics material into said mold cavity;
 - configuring said mold form geometry to comprise at least one gap in which an additional component can be located; and
 - injection molding a plastics material into said mold cavity of said mold to produce a latch component, wherein said plastics material covers and seals said electrical circuit to provide insulation and environmental protection to said electrical circuit.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - integrating said latch component ~~electrical circuit~~ within a latch mechanism, wherein said electrical circuit communicates electrically with said latch mechanism.
- 3-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

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configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one mounting surface feature.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one pivot feature.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one flange feature.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one seal feature.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one mating feature.

10. (Currently Amended) An injection molding method for electrical circuit, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a mold having a mold cavity formed therein;

locating an electrical circuit within said mold cavity, wherein said electrical circuit comprises electrical components assembled to an electrical circuit board prior to any molding operations thereof;

injection molding a plastics material into said mold cavity of said mold to produce a latch component, wherein said plastics material covers and seals said electrical circuit to provide insulation and environmental protection to said electrical circuit;

integrating said latch component electrical circuit within a latch

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mechanism, wherein said electrical circuit communicates electrically with said latch mechanism; and

configuring said mold to provide a mold form geometry that permits a plurality of components to be connected electrically to said electrical circuit and said latch mechanism after said integration of said latch component into said latch mechanism ~~injection molding of said plastics material into said mold cavity.~~

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said latch mechanism comprises a vehicle door latch of a vehicle door latch assembly.

12-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An injection molding method for electrical circuits, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a mold having a mold cavity formed therein;

locating an electrical circuit within said mold cavity, wherein said electrical circuit comprises electrical components assembled to an electrical circuit board prior to any molding operations thereof;

injection molding a plastics material into said mold cavity of said mold to produce a latch component, wherein said plastics material covers and seals said electrical circuit to provide insulation and environmental protection to said electrical circuit;

integrating said latch component ~~electrical circuit~~ within a latch mechanism, wherein said electrical circuit communicates electrically with said latch mechanism, wherein said latch mechanism comprises a vehicle door latch of a vehicle door latch assembly; and

configuring said mold to provide a mold form geometry that comprises at least one gap in which an additional component can be located, wherein said

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mold form geometry permits a plurality of components to be connected electrical to said electrical circuit and said latch mechanism after said integration of said latch component into said latch mechanism ~~injection molding of said plastics material into said mold cavity.~~

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one mounting surface feature.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one pivot feature.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one flange feature.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one seal feature.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

configuring said mold form geometry to possess at least one mating feature.